



# Department of Homeland Security Information Analysis and Infrastructure Protection Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 25 March 2003

Current Nationwide  
Threat Level is



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[www.whitehouse.gov/homeland](http://www.whitehouse.gov/homeland)

## Daily Overview

- The Government Accounting Office has issued Report GAO-03-482: Weapons of Mass Destruction: Additional Russian Cooperation Needed to Facilitate U.S. Efforts to Improve Security at Russian Sites. (See item [3](#))
- The New Scientist reports doctors in Hong Kong have developed a simple diagnostic test for the virus responsible for the global outbreak of "super-pneumonia" dubbed severe acute respiratory syndrome or SARS, which has now infected almost 400 people in 14 countries, and killed 17. (See item [19](#))
- Federal Computer Week reports a Zeichner Risk Analytics LLC study released March 24 found that 36 state governments have failed to prepare, adopt and implement acceptable cybersecurity policies, which could have damaging consequences to citizen services, communication systems, and critical utilities if the nation were to undergo cyberattacks. (See item [25](#))
- Note from the Editor: As the NIPC gets absorbed by the DHS Information Analysis and Infrastructure Protection Directorate, there will be several name changes to the daily. We realize that many of you use filters to identify the daily report, and we will try our hardest to make changes as few times as possible. Thanks for your patience.

### **DHS/IAIP Update Fast Jump**

**Production Industries:** [Energy](#); [Chemical](#); [Defense Industrial Base](#)

**Service Industries:** [Banking and Finance](#); [Transportation](#); [Postal and Shipping](#)

**Sustenance and Health:** [Agriculture](#); [Food](#); [Water](#); [Public Health](#)

**Federal and State:** [Government](#); [Emergency Services](#)

**IT and Cyber:** [Information and Telecommunications](#); [Internet Alert Dashboard](#)

**Other:** [General](#); [DHS/IAIP Web Information](#)

## **Energy Sector**

**Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: Physical: High, Cyber: High**

Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES-ISAC) – <http://esisac.com>]

1. *March 24, Reuters* — **U.S. refiners scrambling after Nigeria oil shut-ins.** U.S. oil refiners are scrambling for alternatives to crude supplies lost from strife-torn Nigeria, eager to avoid being caught short as gasoline demand rises for summer, traders said on Monday. **While there is plenty of lower-quality crude available on international markets, it is Nigerian crude's high gasoline yield that refiners will miss as the oil industry seeks to step up gasoline production for the vacation driving season.** Refiners' options have already been restricted by supply disruptions in Venezuela since December and the loss of Iraq's crude exports last week as the U.S.-led forces launched a military offensive against Baghdad. **Heavy shipments expected from Saudi Arabia in the coming weeks have yet to roll into U.S. storage tanks as U.S. crude inventories wallow near 25-year lows. Saudi supplies will in any case be heavier and higher in sulphur, or more sour, than the Nigerian light, sweet crudes which are good for making gasoline.** As a result, prices are rising sharply for the U.S., Latin American and North Sea crudes that refiners can use as alternatives. Nigeria is one of the top six oil exporters to the United States, sending more than 560,000 bpd last year.  
Source: [http://biz.yahoo.com/rc/030324/energy\\_nigeria\\_crude\\_1.html](http://biz.yahoo.com/rc/030324/energy_nigeria_crude_1.html)
2. *March 24, Reuters* — **Venezuela makes one billion barrels oil discovery.** Venezuela's state oil company has discovered two new oil fields with combined reserves of nearly 1 billion barrels of crude oil, a top executive with Petroleos de Venezuela SA (PDVSA) said on Monday. **Venezuela, which earlier this month created an energy task force to cultivate closer contacts with the Bush administration, disclosed the new discoveries at a news conference in Washington.** Luis Marin, chief operating officer of PDVSA, said test results confirmed the oilfield discovery about two weeks ago. He declined to identify the location of the new oilfields, or if they were offshore or on land. **He described the oil as light, high-quality crude. Marin also said the new fields were near existing oil industry infrastructure, indicating they could be close to active fields and the new crude could be quickly shipped to market by pipelines already in place. Also, Venezuela is offering U.S. energy companies Venezuelan oil to deliver to the U.S. Strategic Petroleum Reserve.** The Bush administration is in the process of filling the nation's emergency oil stockpile with crude that oil firms hand over to the government as royalty payments for drilling on federal leases.  
Source: [http://biz.yahoo.com/rm/030324/energy\\_venezuela\\_usa\\_6.html](http://biz.yahoo.com/rm/030324/energy_venezuela_usa_6.html)
3. *March 24, Government Accounting Office* — **Report GAO-03-482: Weapons of Mass Destruction: Additional Russian Cooperation Needed to Facilitate U.S. Efforts to Improve Security at Russian Sites. The Government Accounting Office (GAO) was asked to report on U.S. programs to help improve security at sites where Russia stores weapons—usable nuclear material, nuclear warheads, dangerous biological pathogens, and chemical weapons.** For each area, the GAO assessed U.S. plans to address security threats at sites in Russia, U.S. progress in implementing those plans, and the primary challenges facing DOD and DOE. **The GAO recommended several actions, including the DOE reevaluate its plans for securing Russia's nuclear material, and with DOD, develop an integrated plan to ensure coordination of efforts to secure Russia's nuclear warheads.** In addition, DOD should develop criteria to guide efforts to secure biological pathogens and to revisit its decision not to secure additional chemical weapons sites. Highlights:  
<http://www.gao.gov/highlights/d03482high.pdf>

4. *March 22, The Virginian-Pilot (Norfolk, VA)* — **Dominion receives permission to extend life of nuclear plants in Virginia** . Dominion Resources Inc. has received permission from federal regulators to extend the life of its nuclear power plants in Virginia for 20 more years. **The Nuclear Regulatory Commission renewed the operating licenses for two reactors at Surry Power Station, about 50 miles from Norfolk, and two units at North Anna Power Station in Mineral, north of Richmond. The 40-year licenses for each of Surry's units, on Hog Island Road, would have expired in 2012 and 2013.** In its license renewal application, Dominion had to show it has adequate plans to address aging systems at the plants, said Richard Zuercher, Dominion's spokesman for nuclear operations. **The NRC determined that most systems would last for another 20 years, Zuercher said. Dominion will continue to monitor all of its systems for degradation and replace them as needed, he said.** Surry generates about 1,600 megawatts of electricity, close to 15 percent of the power used in Dominion's territory, which includes about a third of Virginia's geography but about two-thirds of its consumers. Together with North Anna, which produces about 1,800 megawatts, the plants provide enough power for about 850,000 customers, Zuercher said. Nuclear plants are expensive to build but, once running, generate power at low cost. "Renewing the license is much more cost-effective than replacing that generation with something new," Zuercher said. Source: [http://www.energycentral.com/sections/news/nw\\_article.cfm?id=3727190](http://www.energycentral.com/sections/news/nw_article.cfm?id=3727190)
5. *March 22, The Guardian (UK)* — **First nuclear power plant to close: Calder Hall.** Calder Hall was built for the atomic weapons program and will take 100 years to decommission after decades of radiation damage **Calder Hall, the world's first and oldest industrial-scale nuclear power station, at Sellafield in Cumbria (United Kingdom), is to close on March 31, 47 years after it was opened by the Queen.** Around half the 300 staff will be kept on to unload the highly radioactive spent fuel and prepare the station for decommissioning – a process that will take 100 years. In 1956 the opening of the station was a cause for national celebration, billed as the start of the "new atomic age". Local residents remember the claim that the station, which cost pounds 35m at the time, would produce electricity "too cheap to meter". In fact, it was probably the most expensive way imaginable of keeping the lights on, and it masked the main reason for building Calder Hall – to make plutonium for the nuclear weapons program, a fact admitted five years later. The station produced 180 megawatts of heat, most of which was used on site, but 40 megawatts of electricity went into the grid – tiny by comparison with a modern station. **Calder Hall was the first of a series of magnox stations, so-called because the fuel cans were made of magnesium alloy. The second one, Chapelcross in Dumfries, was also built for military reasons. Altogether 11 stations, each slightly larger than the last, were eventually built, producing 10% of Britain's electricity.** The original design life of the station was 20 years, but despite the fact it is now 47, it was expected to continue working until 2006. However, years of exposure to high levels of radiation have distorted fittings, making it impossible to guarantee the safe loading and extraction of fuel rods. It would be uneconomic to repair. Source: [http://www.energycentral.com/sections/news/nw\\_article.cfm?id=3727539](http://www.energycentral.com/sections/news/nw_article.cfm?id=3727539)
6. *March 22, Albuquerque Journal* — **Construction of \$200 million wind farm begins in New Mexico. Bulldozers broke ground in eastern New Mexico this week and began constructing a 15-mile long, \$200 million wind farm to power homes and businesses**

**beginning this fall.** The project, when complete, will make New Mexico the fifth largest producer of wind energy in the country, said Jeff Sterba, chairman and CEO of Public Service Company of New Mexico. **The 204-megawatt wind powered electric generating station is a joint project of PNM and Florida-based FPL Energy LLC. The farm is expected to provide enough electricity to supply 94,000 homes.** State regulators in December passed a rule that will require New Mexico's three major utilities to derive 10 percent of their power for retail customers from renewable sources such as wind by 2011. The state's largest utility plans to ask regulators this month to set up a "green tariff" that will allow customers to buy the wind-generated power at a premium price.

Source: [http://www.energycentral.com/sections/news/nw\\_article.cfm?id=3725903](http://www.energycentral.com/sections/news/nw_article.cfm?id=3725903)

7. *March 22, Las Vegas Review-Journal* — **Las Vegas coal-fired power plant proposed .** The developers of a planned power transmission line that would terminate near Las Vegas have reached an agreement with a German company that proposes to build a \$1.5 billion coal-fired plant. **Trans-Elect, a power transmission line developer based in Reston, VA, and the Navajo Nation plan to build a 470-mile, 500-kilovolt transmission line from a site near Shiprock, NM, to the Las Vegas area.** The power plant would be built on Navajo land in the Four Corners area where Arizona, New Mexico, Colorado and Utah meet, Steag Power said. The plant would have capacity to generate 1,500 megawatts and could be operational by late 2007. **The coal-fired project would provide the Southwest with more balance in its fuel mix for power generation. Power from the Four Corners plant would hedge gas price volatility with "predictable coal costs.** It also could provide a replacement for low-cost power from the Mohave Generating Station, a 33-year-old coal-fired power plant in Laughlin. Nevada Power has an ownership interest in the 1,390-megawatt Laughlin plant. Southern California Edison, the majority owner and operator of Mohave, has said it may not be able to extend Mohave's operation beyond 2005.

Source: [http://www.energycentral.com/sections/news/nw\\_article.cfm?id=3726452](http://www.energycentral.com/sections/news/nw_article.cfm?id=3726452)

8. *March 22, Las Vegas Review-Journal* — **Contracts approved for Nevada solar power. State regulators have approved contracts for one of the largest solar power projects in the nation.** The Public Utilities Commission of Nevada voted 3-0 on Thursday to ratify contracts between Duke Solar Energy of Raleigh, N.C., and Nevada Power Co. of Las Vegas and Sierra Pacific Power Co. of Reno . Duke agreed to build the Eldorado Solar Electric Generating Station in the Eldorado Valley near Boulder City to generate solar power for the utilities. The plant will be complete by 2005 and will supply electricity to Nevada Power and Sierra so that the utilities will be able to comply with a state law that requires them to obtain some of their energy from so-called renewable sources. **Renewable sources include geothermal power from hot underground water and wind power. The law requires the utilities to obtain some solar power although it is generally more expensive than wind and geothermal power.**

Source: [http://www.energycentral.com/sections/news/nw\\_article.cfm?id=3727820](http://www.energycentral.com/sections/news/nw_article.cfm?id=3727820)

9. *March 21, Associated Press* — **Strong winds cause short circuit at Russian nuclear plant .** Strong winds caused an electrical short circuit at a nuclear power plant in western Russia, causing at least one reactor to shut down and another unit to reduce power, the plant's administration said Friday. The incident occurred in Smolensk, about 220 miles (354 kilometers) west of Moscow. The short circuit posed no danger and radiation levels did not

exceed normal levels, the administration said in a statement. One reactor automatically shut down, and another unit reduced power to 50 percent, the statement said. **The incident came the same day that a regional nuclear safety commission wrapped up an inspection at the Smolensk power plant and declared it in full compliance with safety norms, the ITAR–Tass news agency reported.**

Source: [http://www.energycentral.com/sections/news/nw\\_article.cfm?id=3727406](http://www.energycentral.com/sections/news/nw_article.cfm?id=3727406)

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## **Chemical Sector**

Nothing to report.

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## **Defense Industrial Base Sector**

Nothing to report.

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## **Banking and Finance Sector**

10. *March 24, Associated Press* — **Some Iraqi assets to be handed to U.S.** Swiss banking giant UBS said Monday it will hand over to the U.S. government some Iraqi assets that had been frozen since 1990. **UBS – Switzerland's largest and Europe's second-ranked bank – declined to reveal how much money it was releasing to U.S. authorities from blocked accounts at UBS branches in the United States. "The funds stem from payments of U.S. oil companies to Iraqi ones for deliveries ahead of the implementation of sanctions against Iraq in 1990," UBS spokesman Serge Steiner told Dow Jones Newswires.** Last week, U.S. authorities said they were confiscating \$1.74 billion in frozen assets held in U.S. banks. They planned to use the money for humanitarian purposes in Iraq and to make payments on legal claims by people who say they were victims of Saddam's regime.

Source:

[http://story.news.yahoo.com/news?tmpl=story2/ap/20030324/ap\\_on\\_re\\_eu/war\\_iraqi\\_assets\\_2](http://story.news.yahoo.com/news?tmpl=story2/ap/20030324/ap_on_re_eu/war_iraqi_assets_2)

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## **Transportation Sector**

11. *March 24, The Argus (California)* — **SFO quietly testing chem–bio sensors.** As more than 65,000 people a day heft luggage into San Francisco International Airport to be scanned for guns and bombs, hidden machines occasionally sniff the air they breathe for lethal gases and germs. **Inside SFO, defense scientists are quietly testing a variety of chemical and bio–warfare sensors in a race to guard airports nationwide against terrorist attacks.** Today, chemical or biological detectors are at work in New York, Washington and other U.S. cities. **But SFO is the nation's only major international airport testing detectors for**



chemical and biological agents, sensors equally or more accurate than military detectors rolling and flying into Iraq with U.S. forces. Over months of experimenting, scientists, airport managers and security staff are getting a preview of complications in the domestic war on terror, where they face decisions largely hidden from the flying public. **The work at SFO suggests that even with multiple kinds of detectors in U.S. airports, sensor technology may never be a full answer to bioterrorism. Even the best of today's biosensors, relying on DNA fingerprinting, pose built-in delays in confirming the existence of some key bioterror agents.**

Source: <http://www.theargusononline.com/Stories/0,1413,83~1968~1264490,00.html>

12. *March 23, Chicago Tribune* — **U.S. government instates no-fly zone over Chicago. The federal government instated a temporary no-fly zone Saturday for small planes over downtown Chicago and the Near North Side, acquiescing to an intense lobbying effort by Mayor Richard Daley and other Illinois political leaders. The flight ban, similar to the one imposed after Sept. 11, 2001, restricts small aircraft from flying too close to a densely populated, 6.6-square-mile area that includes the Sears Tower, the John Hancock Center and Wrigley Field. Commercial flights to O'Hare International Airport and Midway Airport will not be affected. The restriction bans aircraft from flying below 3,000 feet in an area that includes downtown Chicago and much of Lincoln Park; aircraft that fly higher are not restricted. The no-fly zone is bounded by Lake Michigan, Irving Park Road on the north, Ashland Avenue and the Kennedy and Dan Ryan Expressways on the west, and the Eisenhower Expressway to the south. At a City Hall news conference Saturday, officials said the Air National Guard would soon begin air patrols to enforce the no-fly zone.**

Source: <http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/local/chicago/chi-0303230281mar23.1.6075184.story>

13. *March 22, New York Times* — **Safety rules are adjusted at airports. American travelers debating whether to fly during the war with Iraq are asking themselves not only whether airport security is tight enough, but also whether it is relatively trouble-free. The Transportation Security Administration is trying to iron out complaints about security while making sure terrorists do not have access to commercial jetliners. The agency is introducing what it calls a "tailored" security system for airports. It has ranked 429 airports nationwide according to factors like size, location and, ultimately, the risk of attack. Then it issues orders to the airports according to those rankings. Some airports are asked to increase the presence of law enforcement officers, randomly search moving cars and conduct patrols with bomb-sniffing dogs. Others do not have to take such precautions.**

Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/2003/03/22/international/worldspecial/22SECU.html>

14. *March 22, Associated Press* — **Transportation getting more scrutiny. The government says it is keeping better track of the U.S. transportation network since the Sept. 11 attacks, with the goal to quickly pinpoint an attack and determine how best to handle it. Federal officials have put in place new communications and mapping systems, incorporated intelligence in their planning and practiced working together in event of a crisis. The Transportation Department's Research and Special Programs Administration operates a high-tech communications center, built at the end of last year. It is staffed around the clock with a half-dozen people who monitor events that could affect transportation, including incidents such as the recent fire at an oil depot in New York Harbor. A first-alert system allows workers**

at the center to send a voice message within an hour to hundreds of state and local officials. A secure videoconferencing system means Transportation Secretary Norman Mineta can talk directly with the White House. Transportation officials can put layers of information about highways, airfields and pipelines on a single map, making it easier to coordinate an evacuation or get emergency supplies where they are needed. **Since the terrorist attacks, the FAA has expanded and upgraded its operations center blocks from the Capitol. The agency also now has a continuous communications link with the military.**

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A10253-2003Mar 22.html>

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## **Postal and Shipping Sector**

15. *March 24, National Journal* — **Lawmakers briefed on test run of cargo-handling tools.** The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) is reviewing applications for a pilot program that will help cargo handlers implement technologies to protect sea containers from terrorist threats, several port security experts told lawmakers recently. **Transportation officials have said they expect to allocate about \$28 million in grants later this year for Operation Safe Commerce (OSC), a government and industry partnership that identifies cargo "supply chain" vulnerabilities along particular trade routes. The program aims to develop effective methods for "verifying, securing, monitoring and sharing information" about cargo as it travels from foreign ports to the United States,** Richard Larrabee, director of port commerce for the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, told a House Transportation and Infrastructure subcommittee earlier this month. "Private companies have volunteered to join with representatives from key federal, state and local agencies to construct prototypes of secure international supply chains." **TSA's current OSC projects focus on the ports of New York and New Jersey, Los Angeles and Long Beach in California, and Seattle and Tacoma in Washington, which handle about 70 percent of the nation's cargo movement,** according to Asa Hutchinson, the Homeland Security Department's undersecretary for border and transportation security.

Source: <http://www.govexec.com/dailyfed/0303/032403td1.htm>

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## **Agriculture Sector**

Nothing to report.

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## **Food Sector**

16. *March 24, New Scientist* — **Anti-bacterial powder could disinfect food. A tasteless powder of antibodies could be sprinkled on suspect food to destroy any dangerous bacteria, according to the researcher who has produced the powder. An alternative use would be as a spray for meat carcasses, to ensure hygiene in abattoirs.** It has already shown promise in animal tests and human tests may begin within a year, says Hoon Sunwoo, of the University of

Alberta, Canada. The antibodies are produced by a commonly-used approach which begins with injecting chickens with small amounts of E. coli, salmonella, and other common food pathogens. "The chickens produce antibodies in the blood, but they get concentrated in the egg yolks to protect the embryo," Sunwoo explains. He extracts the antibodies by drying the egg yolks. Sunwoo claims that a chicken's average annual production of 300 eggs would produce enough antibodies to disinfect 600,000 plates of food.

Source: <http://www.newscientist.com/news/news.jsp?id=ns99993538>

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## **Water Sector**

17. *March 24, Detroit News* — **Ground water limits sought.** The Wisconsin Senate Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs Committee is slated to work on a bill which could become one of the most important pieces of legislation this year. **It would require Wisconsin to identify "critical aquifers," limit water withdrawals from such water tables without first obtaining permission, authorize yet-to-be-determined fees for such withdrawals, and enable small-well owners to seek remedies if their wells had been harmed by large pumping operations.** The legislation was prompted by a Senate task force which last year called for a new aquifer protection law to protect Michigan's ground water, prevent harm to the Great Lakes and prevent interruptions of water supply from less shallow wells. **Senator Patricia Birkholz said her bill does not directly address water diversion, or the sale of water to another state or country. But she said if enacted, it would "indirectly affect diversion over the long run because we will have made a statement as a state that we feel strongly enough about protecting the resource that we've enacted legislation to deal with it."**

Source: <http://www.detnews.com/2003/metro/0303/24/b05-116675.htm>

18. *March 23, Associated Press* — **Localities deal with old water systems.** New York City relies on an aqueduct constructed when Woodrow Wilson was president. Across the state, **Buffalo uses a 150-year-old cast iron distribution pipe. Communities in between suffer with water distribution systems that are cobbled, clogged, or contaminated.** Local officials, with little money to tackle these costly problems, are replacing pipes on a piecemeal basis or borrowing money for large-scale upgrades. There are 3,270 community water systems in the state, from New York City's vast network serving 9 million people to systems that serve a few dozen. Pipes were laid for many of these systems during the state's growth spurt a century ago. Many more date to just after World War II. A lot of the original lines and treatment plants remain in service today. New York state is far from unique. **The federal Environmental Protection Agency last fall projected that capital and operating needs for drinking water systems nationwide could outpace funding by billions of dollars over then next two decades.**

Source: <http://www.newsday.com/news/local/wire/ny-bc-ny--drinkingwater0323mar23.0.1740938.story?coll=ny-ap-regional-wire>

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## Public Health Sector

19. *March 24, New Scientist* — **Breakthrough in fight against super-pneumonia.** Doctors in Hong Kong have developed a simple diagnostic test for the virus responsible for the global outbreak of "super-pneumonia". The test, validated on eight patients so far, was made possible after scientists succeeded in growing the virus in the laboratory. **That breakthrough will also be crucial in helping researchers precisely identify the pathogen, as well as assess potential drug treatments.** The disease, dubbed severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS), has now infected almost 400 people in 14 countries, and killed 17.

Source: <http://www.newscientist.com/news/news.jsp?id=ns99993536>

20. *March 24, Associated Press* — **Singapore orders quarantine over SARS.** Singapore on Monday ordered about 740 people who may have been exposed to severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) to stay home for 10 days in efforts to contain the disease, which has sickened hundreds of people worldwide. Health Minister Lim Hng Kiang said he was invoking the Infectious Diseases Act for what could be the first time since Singapore gained independence in 1965. **The city state of 4 million people has recorded 65 cases of severe acute respiratory syndrome, or SARS, including 14 new cases reported on Monday, Lim said.** Twelve patients are in serious condition, he added.

Source: [http://abcnews.go.com/wire/Living/ap20030324\\_1175.html](http://abcnews.go.com/wire/Living/ap20030324_1175.html)

21. *March 22, Scripps Howard News Service* — **Instant-messaging system would warn physicians of bioterrorism.** Federal health officials said Friday they will soon start testing a system that would allow instant messaging of bioterror alerts to nearly half the nation's doctors via handheld computers. **The three-month pilot project is designed to help figure out the best way for the government to communicate with front-line health providers in the event of a bioterrorism attack.** During the 2001 anthrax attacks, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) primarily used teleconferences and the Internet to communicate with physicians and other providers. "This important new project will allow us to harness the power of technology to communicate with many of the doctors, nurses and other clinicians who will be called on to diagnose and treat patients quickly in the event of a bioterrorist attack," said HHS Secretary Tommy Thompson.

Source: [http://www.knoxnews.com/kns/national/article/0.1406.KNS\\_350\\_1830323.00.html](http://www.knoxnews.com/kns/national/article/0.1406.KNS_350_1830323.00.html)

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## Government Sector

22. *March 23, New York Times* — **U.S. and Mexico coordinate efforts for mutual protection.** The United States and Mexico, after battling over their common border for so many years, are now coordinating military missions to protect it from attack. Mexico is sending thousands of soldiers to patrol the border and help secure it against terrorist threats – an unprecedented move. The Mexicans have never used their army to help defend their neighbor. "It's a new mission: Mexico looking out for the United States," said Sgt. Benito Hernández, a Mexican soldier on sentry duty here in Juárez, where thousands of travelers and truckers cross the border in both directions every day. **Mexico is sending 18,000 soldiers to secure airports, seaports,**

border posts and bridges with direct links to the United States. At least half will be based within a few miles of the border, many serving as sentries in the desert. Others will serve in the interior, guarding tourist resorts and oil refineries, the two great sources of foreign revenue for Mexico.

Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/2003/03/23/international/worldspecial/23MEXI.html>

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## **Emergency Services Sector**

23. *March 24, Associated Press* — **Cash-poor states wait to call up National Guard.** With war overseas and fears of terrorism at home, the National Guard has more troops in action than at any time since the Korean War, government officials say. **Some governors, however, have held back from following the recommendation of Homeland Secretary Tom Ridge that states rely on the Guard for security. They're worried about spreading personnel, and money, too thin so soon.** War in Iraq and peacekeeping in Afghanistan account for most of the 95,391 Guard soldiers and airmen deployed so far; the total rises to 141,954 when those notified of potential action are included. During the Korean War, 184,194 Guardsmen were called up for duty. Just 702 Guard personnel have been called up for the new terrorism alert, according to the National Guard Bureau in Washington.

Source: [http://www.boston.com/dailyglobe2/083/nation/Cash\\_poor\\_states\\_wait\\_to\\_call\\_up\\_Guard+.shtml](http://www.boston.com/dailyglobe2/083/nation/Cash_poor_states_wait_to_call_up_Guard+.shtml)

24. *March 23, New York Times* — **In New York, a security blanket with holes.** As the United States wages war on Iraq, New Yorkers and others across the region are witnessing an extraordinary state of heightened security. **Police officers are armed like assault troops outside prominent buildings, police boats are combing the waterfronts and trucks are being inspected at bridges and tunnels.** Layered atop those are changes hidden from most eyes, like the detectives paying visits to chemical companies that terrorists might contact, the immigration agents demanding credit card numbers from foreign visitors, or the hospital emergency room stockpiles of nerve gas antidotes. **Still, this new security blanket has gaping holes. Some come with promised fixes and some do not. Some defy easy repair in an open society and some seem to be waiting for solutions not yet imagined.** For example, people and bags arriving at the international airports are much more carefully screened than they were before 9/11, but cargo arriving at the seaports is not. Power companies have increased security around their plants, but Consolidated Edison rebuffed Police Department recommendations to install vehicle barriers and new fences at a complex in Queens. The Police Department has significantly increased its commitment to counterterrorism work. **Yet its force has 4,000 fewer men and women than it did two years ago, and many of the officers and supervisors who would be first to respond to an incident have not yet received any special equipment, like gas masks, or any specialized training for dealing with unconventional weapons.**

Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/2003/03/23/nyregion/23YORK.html>

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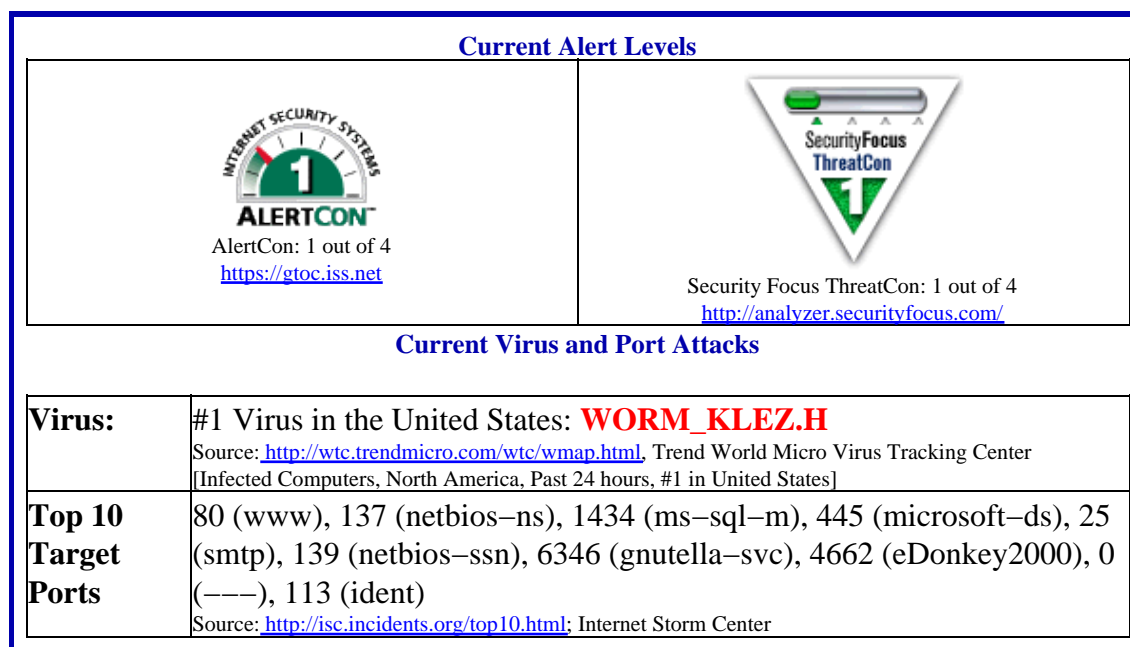
## **Information and Telecommunications Sector**

25. *March 24, Federal Computer Week* — **States need cybersecurity focus.** A Zeichner Risk Analytics LLC study released today found 36 state governments have failed to prepare, adopt and implement acceptable cybersecurity policies, which could have damaging consequences to citizen services, communication systems and critical utilities if the nation were to undergo cyberattacks. Following a yearlong review, the study found that only 14 states and the District of Columbia are in full compliance with the Gramm–Leach–Bliley Act of 1999, which requires federal agencies and states to prepare cybersecurity guidance for financial institutions. Fourteen other states have pending legislation and/or regulations for compliance, while 22 states have little or no cybersecurity activity. **The study recommended that: 1) States adopt the National Association of Insurance Commissioners nationwide proposal, which provides an approach similar to that of states in compliance with the Gramm–Leach–Bailey Act; 2) States create a single, nationwide process for developing cybersecurity laws and policies; 3) A single public–private "focal point is badly needed" to coordinate strategy.**  
Source: <http://www.fcw.com/geb/articles/2003/0324/web-secure-03-24-03.asp>
26. *March 21, Government Computer News* — **Leadership selected for new cybersecurity panel.** Leaders have been named for the new House Homeland Security subcommittee on Cybersecurity, Science and Research and Development. Rep. Mac Thornberry (R–TX) will chair the subcommittee and the ranking minority member is Rep. Zoe Lofgren (D–CA). The Homeland Security Committee was formed to coordinate all House oversight of the Department of Homeland Security and has legislative jurisdiction over the 2002 act creating the department. **The subcommittee will oversee "security of computer, telecommunications, information technology, industrial control, electric infrastructure and data systems, including science, research and development; protection of government and private networks and computer systems from domestic and foreign attack; prevention of injury and civilian populations and physical infrastructure caused by cyberattack, and relevant oversight,"** according to Cox's office.  
Source: [http://www.gcn.com/vol1\\_no1/daily-updates/21486-1.html](http://www.gcn.com/vol1_no1/daily-updates/21486-1.html)
27. *March 21, Federal Computer Week* — **DHS seeks IT portfolio management.** The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) last week issued its first request for information (RFI) for services to manage its information technology portfolio. **The RFI, released March 18, seeks the best strategies to continually evaluate the condition of the department's IT portfolio as the agency taps into technology to build its infrastructure and carry out its mission.** "This evaluation will require the application of an analytical framework that will rapidly and accurately characterize systems, individual mission or business applications...[for] technology fitness and business value to the department," the request said. **It also requires methodologies for best practices, automated solutions for sound architecture, hosting on standard hardware and flexible user interface.** The information must be submitted by April 2.  
Source: <http://www.fcw.com/fcw/articles/2003/0317/web-dhs-03-21-03.asp>
28. *March 21, Computerworld* — **Rebuilding plans for postwar Iraq depend on IT.** The State Department and the Pentagon are already working with the private sector to plan for the rebuilding of Iraq's infrastructure, including IT and telecommunications systems. Under a State Department program known as the Future of Iraq Project, Iraqi exiles with expertise in IT

and other disciplines have delivered to the Bush administration studies and recommendations on reconstructing postwar Iraq. David Staples, a spokesman for the **Future of Iraq Project** said **17 working groups have been established, including an economics and infrastructure group focused on IT infrastructure and telecommunications requirements.** A spokesman for the Defense Information Systems Agency (DISA), the Pentagon's central network systems provider, said the agency plans to rely on commercial contractors "to the maximum extent possible" and will bring them in once planning for a postwar communications infrastructure is complete, the spokesman said.

Source: <http://www.idg.net/go.cgi?id=793039>

## Internet Alert Dashboard



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## General Sector

29. *March 24, Associated Press* — **Second New York terror suspect pleads guilty.** Another of six Yemeni-American men accused of training at an al-Qaida camp in Afghanistan months before the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks pleaded guilty Monday to charges he supported al Qaeda. **Shafal Mosed, 24, entered the plea to a charge of knowingly and unlawfully providing and attempting to provide material resources to a foreign terrorist organization, namely al Qaeda.** Under a plea deal, he agreed to cooperate with investigators. In exchange, prosecutors dropped one charge and agreed to seek a lighter sentence of eight years. He could have faced 15 years. Mosed was ordered held until sentencing, scheduled for July 16. In January, co-defendant Faysal Galab reached a deal with the government in which he agreed to testify against the other five men. Since then, negotiations have been underway involving all of the others, defense and prosecuting attorneys have said. **Mosed, of suburban Lackawanna, a U.S.-born former college student who worked as a telemarketer, acknowledged that he bought a uniform and trained in the use of guns and a grenade**

launcher at al-Farooq training camp near Kandahar and performed guard duty while there from April to June 2001.

Source: [http://www.austin360.com/aas/news/ap/ap\\_story.html/National/AP.V7114.AP-Attacks-Lackawa.html](http://www.austin360.com/aas/news/ap/ap_story.html/National/AP.V7114.AP-Attacks-Lackawa.html)

30. *March 23, New York Times* — **Papers debate use of teams to react quickly to terror.** As the war with Iraq heightens concern about the possibility of terrorist strikes in the United States, news organizations are debating how they would cover the aftermath of a chemical, biological or radioactive-bomb attack. **Several news organizations, including USA Today, The Washington Post, Newsday and The Los Angeles Times, are putting together groups of reporters, all volunteers, to act as the journalistic equivalent of first responders. The reporters are receiving special training and protective gear, or soon will, to prepare for the aftermath of such an attack. But other news organizations, like The Atlanta Journal-Constitution and The New York Times, have decided against such an approach, saying the potential danger to the staff is too great.** "This presents a real dilemma for us because we have not had to cover this type of thing before," said Milton Coleman, deputy managing editor of The Washington Post. "We know we are not going to send reporters into a dangerous situation. We are not going to send people against their will." Still, The Post is asking for volunteers, who are to receive special training and equipment. Deployment, Mr. Coleman said, would come only after editors and the reporters had assessed the risks and whether there would be any journalistic value to entering a hazardous zone. **For television stations, the question is complicated by the need for pictures. Some news directors said they would hesitate to send people in. Bill Lord, news director at WJLA-TV in Washington, said his station might have to rely on aerial or other cameras that were not its own because he would decline to assemble a special team.**

Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/2003/03/22/international/worldspecial/22RESP.html>

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